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## S. G. Miller to George Miller (29 September 1860)

Susan G. Miller

George Miller

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September, 29<sup>th</sup> 1860.

My precious Child,

I know that you and George think I have treated you very unkindly in not writing sooner, and I feel truly mortified that I have given you cause to feel so. Last week, I could not summon courage enough to write. When at home, I felt so blue I dared not write for fear of casting a shadow over your feelings; and you were all together, and times rather exciting around you, thought you would not miss a letter from Ma much. I did not stay at home, but one night & that was Saturday. Would come home in the morning and think, 'I will stay tonight.' But as evening shadows began to lengthen, I would feel that my home was far away with my loved ones

and I would fix up & start - hardly  
knowing sometimes where I would stop.  
Two nights spent at Cousin Robert's, one  
at John Henry's, one at Uncle Gordon's and  
one at Uncle Daggett's, closed the week.

Of course I did but little work. But  
Pa came home Sunday Night, just as  
I was sitting in the front door, to spend  
the night alone, and now I expect to  
stay at home and do something for  
you & George. I would have sent  
George's coat however, if I had not waited  
hoping Mr. Trilling's goods would come  
so that I might send you & him some  
pants with it. I got a pair for you  
& sent two patterns for him. It is all  
the very best of Cassameres. Yours is not  
just what I would have liked, but thought  
it would make a first-rate pair for  
service, and that is the kind you will  
need first. What I send George is for  
dress pants. If he does not like either  
one of them, he must return them at



once, as they are costly, and I don't wish  
him to keep them unless he really wants  
them. Let me know what else you wish  
me to get, and I will attend to it. I have  
first Choice in these Cassimere, and if  
George prefers a pair like yours either  
either of the others, I will send them.

Your shirt - I will send just as soon  
as I can make them; and rest assured  
I feel as anxious for you to have them  
as you do to get them.

Thine my dear children to improve  
your time. Oh remember the habits of  
thought & action you are now forming  
will follow you through all after-life.

It is with yourselves, more than any  
thing else or any one else, whether you  
do well or ill. Both have minds, and  
both have moral power; both can  
do all that we ask or expect - that is,  
to act well your parts. - Our all of earthly  
hopes are centred in you two, Oh dis-  
appoint us not. Would that I could  
express to you my feelings; but a Mother

love & hopes, make but a mother can ever  
recall. Then evil company Edwin  
my precious child, and with it then  
all evil habits. Boys are wont to make  
light of a mother's counsel about these  
things, but oh my child! Look around  
among your kindred, and see the  
effect of evil habits in many of those  
who once scorned the very thought  
of their becoming victims, and take  
warning. It requires firmness, great  
moral firmness, to resist the many  
temptations by which you are sur-  
rounded, but all that is necessary is  
for you to set your will against  
them. Let him who asks you to take  
a social glass, or game of cards, know  
that you have no such desires, and  
they soon cease to ask you, and  
respect you all the more for your  
resistance. I have witnessed enough  
misery within the last month from  
intemperance to curdle the blood of any  
one who possessed common humanity.



5

Am looking every day to hear that the pain  
is gone. I know all I can learn, his time has  
come. And what an end, for his poor  
children, wife & parents - to contemplate  
I heard of once, when first married & off  
at the idea of his ever being a drunkard.  
After I left Choloma your Uncle Oscar did  
worse than ever done, so bad, as nothing  
but Providence prevented his committing  
his wife, this poor Willy could tell you  
of. But he has been awakened, and I  
think from what I hear that he will not  
only quit that, but become a good man.

Forgive me for dwelling just now on  
this theme - You have left me for the  
first time to steer your own course  
through this unfriendly world - You  
may have many friends - none but one  
mother. Friends have their own ambition,  
mother has none for her child. I counsel  
you but for your good. Maybe simple  
& ignorant, but have lived many more  
years than either of my children.

Nothing can check that long dreamy prospect  
before me, but the noble & upward  
course of my boys. For this I am willing



to make any sacrifice.

Simmie & Jimmie staid but one day at Lockman. Aunt & Uncle Gordon followed them to Okolona on Monday.

Aunt Mary regretted not seeing more of you. She was quite unwell Sunday but improving some.

Aunt Sarah told me to tell you and George she felt quite disappointed at your not going down to see her before leaving. She had been keeping a big Fruit Cake for George. I guess you were all like to have it just now.

The boys all ask after you. The Institute has opened with a good many new scholars I hear. Eliza Watt & Lou Irons have returned. Uncle Perkins moves back to Toron tomorrow. I met Luc once since you left riding on horseback. Carrie Anderson once. 'Oh yes (she said,) you have not got Eddy to dine you now.'

Since I commenced your Pa has come home from Toron, I brought your letter to him, and one from Ellen & Aunt Catharine. Glad to hear you were all

well, but would like to hear a few  
more particulars about you.

I hope you and George & Willie will  
hang together as three brothers. Willy  
left home with a heart full of care.  
Help him, and help each other.

I am sorry for your ladies, that Florence  
is leaving. Return my sincere gratitude  
to Cousin Mary for her invitation.

Tell her it would always afford me  
pleasure to visit her, and I shall do  
so when I can. For the present study  
calls me at home.

These letters from Ellen & Aunt Eliza were  
written last week. I hope he has better  
& still better news from home.

Love to George, Willie, Cousin  
Mary & Willy Bass - also Cousin Mollie  
Addison. Tell Mollie I expect to visit  
her good news, if she does not hurry back.

God bless you my dear child, with  
your brother & Cousin, prays your

Affectionate Mother  
L. H. Miller





Mr Edwin Miller,  
Oxford,  
Miss.

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 1866  
Letter from Mother  
While at University.